6: Goudal--234-235 S-3 (1934) 1938 Laotians-1-2
186, 563

"As regards Annamite immigration into Laos, the following opinion was expressed by a highly placed Laotian, His Excellency the Tiao Phetsarath, Inspector of Political and Administrative Affairs in Laos, in the course of an interview published early in 1931 by France-Indochine:

The Laotians have no need of Annamite immigration, which is a source of expense and trouble for them. The Laotians have to give [235] way before the immigrants and abandon their institutions and customs. The immigrants should as a rule submit to Laotian laws and regulations, but in reality they do nothing of the kind, as Annamites in Laos live 'outside the laws', form 'a State within a State' and thus enjoy 'inadmissable privileges'. This state of affairs must have serious consequences in the future and will surely lead the Laotians to desert Laos and to cross over into Siam to join the great Thai family, which always gives a warm welcome to its blood brothers from across the river.

These statements are naturally denied by the Annamites, who assert that they have no feeling of hostility for the Laotians and have no desire to invade or conquer their territory. And in reality the avenues open to the Annamite immigrants are nowadays much more limited than is commonly believed. There are of course the mines and work on the roads and railways, but most of the workers so employed are essentially unstable

and cannot really be considered as immigrants in the strict sense of the term. Only when the Annamites are allowed to grow rice in Laos will their emigration have any chance of development. Moreover they seem to form an element of stability and prosperity for Laos. (1)

1. Pham-Quynh: 'L'Immigration annamite au Laos', in France-Indochine, 27 March 1931."

6: Goudal--235 S-3 (1934) 1938 Laotians
186, 652

"When Mr. Paul Reynaud, then Minister for the Colonies, visited Indo-China in November 1931, the Annamite colony in Vientiane submitted to him a list of complaints which brought out the following points:

(1) Annamite emigration is a vital matter for Laos. Whether they like it or not, the Laotians must drop their policy of isolation and collaborate with the other races of the Union, and the necessary effort cannot be made by the indigenous population of Laos.

(2) In its present state, progress in Laos depends entirely on subsidies from the Federal Government; Laos must now take steps not only to meet its own expenditure but also to play an important part in the Indo-Chinese economic system, by the development of its natural wealth."

7: Thompson--376 J-4 (no date) 1937 Laotians
116, 177, 167, 186, 464

"It is obvious that the future development of the country, as in Cambodia, cannot depend on any but imported labour. As ever, it is the prolific and industrious Chinese and Annamites who are flowing into Laos to the economic betterment of the land, but equally to the moral distress of its people. Middle Laos, from Savannakhet to Vientiane, is the region most subject to infiltration. Upper and Lower Laos will probably be cut apart by a wedge of foreign colonizers. The French cannot but favour this immigration. Laos is a terrestrial paradise offering an easy living, undisputed by the timid Laotians, to the miserable Annamites from the over-crowded Tonkinese delta. The Laotians, like the Khmers, prefer to withdraw rather than to struggle with their old enemies. A terse Laotian proverb crystallizes this ancient antagonism: 'Dog and cat, Annamite and Laotian.' In addition to taking their land and their women the Annamite has introduced vices like gaming and theft, and diseases like tuberculosis and syphilis. The contempt of the industrious and formalistic Annamite for the lazy and carefree Laotian is only matched by the latter's impotent hatred. Yet the evil is without remedy. Rich, unoccupied land will inevitably attract an industrious and prolific people like the Annamites, who are able and willing to do what Laotians cannot and will not do."

7: Thompson--380-381 J-4 (no date) 1937 Laotians-1-2
116, 181, 186

"In proportion, as the Laotian is the national group which has the least political and economic importance in Indo-China, so it is the country where the French find themselves most happy. Not that there are not some of the racial unpleasantnesses evidenced in a centre like Luang-Prabang, but in Laos the friction that seems inseparable from all colonization is at a minimum. The reaction to mutual contracts is the same as in Cambodia, but more intense in degree. For the rare Frenchman who sees in the Laotians a silly, lazy, and naïve people, there are hundreds who are charmed by their gentle affability and their aesthetic appearance. If they understand and like the Laotian character, there are no limits to the devotion they can inspire. But an offence to Laotian pride, albeit unconscious, or demands for sustained effort on their part, will meet with instantaneous defeat.

The effect which the French have had upon the Laotian people is as yet--perhaps because the economic exploitation is so dilatory there--very slight in comparison with the influence Laos has had upon the French. By contrast with the sombre inscrutability of the ambitious Annamites, the easy-going Laotian is infectiously gay. Suddenly it seems the simplest thing in the world to be happy. Laotian family life has an archaic simplicity. The country is an earthly paradise which offers a beauty and nourishment that demands no effort for its enjoyment. Partly it is because Buddhism has encouraged a life without violent desires, but it is also due to the climate which has conspired to reject effort and to encourage an immobile happiness. For the European, wearied with Western greed

and strife, Laos seems to be the answer to [381] all his problems. Laziness is an idle reproach in a land where work would obviously make one less rather than more content. In fact, Laos is in itself a passive reproach to the futility of Europe's bustling activity and soul-searchings. It is a museum-piece of earthly happiness, a reply to the West's gloomy disillusionment. Even the Civilizer, with all his utilitarian baggage, hesitates to trouble its idyllic calm. If Europeans are forced by a grudging nature to wrest a precarious living from it by irksome and boring toil, the Laotians have not had to submit to such indignity. They render lip-service to European superiority, because it is too much trouble to be impolite, but the Laotians do not believe in it. Nor does the European for long who lives in their amiable midst. Europe is well lost to gain a Laotian soul."

10: d'Orleans--354-355 T-3 (1891-92) 1894 Laos
186

"The [355] standard of Luang Prabang is white, with a particoloured dragon like that of China, while a second white flag with a red border, upon which can be traced the outlines of an elephant, must be Siamese."

648* 175* everywhere. In the restricted zone on the /330/ right bank troops of soldiers were still circulating and Siamese functionaries had taken the place of the local authorities. In that part of the kingdom of Luang-Prabang which was situated on the right bank of the Mekong there was an obvious attempt -- and one clearly contrary to the treaty -- to transform the region into a Siamese province.

654 Without taking time to argue, he merely cited the fact that Chantaboun was our guaranty and that its evacuation could necessarily not be envisaged until complete satisfaction had been given to our innumerable claims. Then he embarked on September 3 for Tonkin, where he rapidly organized the important campaign which he was to undertake along the upper Black River and the Upper Mekong for the purpose of drawing up a map of the region on the very spot.

654 648* 175* *Delimitation of the frontier with China* (December 1894). Accompanied by the Messrs. Lefevre-Pontalis, Caillat and Oum, by Commander Tournier, Dr. Lefevre and several topographical officers, and wondrously aided by Deo-van-Tri who took great pride in providing, first in French territory and then in Chinese territory, for provisions at the various stops, for finding coolies and horses, for the chance repairs /331/ which the paths required, etc. (1), he reached

/186/ 1. "Never had our excellent assistant taken more pains to make us succeed. He thus manifested his gratitude not only for the past but also for the present, for he knew that the French government was determined not to cede China any of his territories, part of which the Chinese agents had had hopes of taking from him. He knew that he was indebted to us for having shed light on this question which was such a grave one for him and his people. He loved us all the more for it, and his people vied with their leader in their enthusiasm for us." Mission Pavie, Vol. II, p. 298.

Muong-Le in December where without any difficulty he established the frontier line in full agreement with the two Chinese commissioners. The latter, knowing the place he held in the cantons and the perseverance with which he had steadily aimed at their pacification, manifested a perfectly correct and conciliatory attitude (2).

/642/ 2. The agreement awarded the two Muong-Hou to France.